

WASHINGTON, D.C.
POST & HERALD

MORNING 407,049
SUNDAY 474,075

JUL 22 1962

Architect in \$2 Billion Job Leaves Single Cornerstone

By Jean M. White
Staff Reporter

The man who has directed a 2-billion-dollar Federal construction program in the last seven years soon will leave Washington, his name engraved on only one cornerstone.

Leonard L. Hunter's name is found on the cornerstone of the Washington Hospital Center as the then Supervising Architect for the General Services Administration. Soon afterwards, his title was changed to Assistant Commissioner for Design and Construction, Public Buildings Service, GSA. They do not make cornerstones big enough for that title.

Hunter is resigning after more than 28 years of Government service to return to private practice as an architect with John Carl Warnecke and Associates. The San Francisco firm recently was given a contract to redesign two Federal buildings on Lafayette Square. But Hunter won't be working on that project.

"My territory will be west of the Mississippi," he pointed out.

It was through his position as a consultant for the Governor's Architect Advisory Committee for the State Capitol of Hawaii that Hunter first met Warnecke. This finally led to his decision to leave GSA.

Not Without Honor



THE WASHINGTON POST
LEONARD L. HUNTER
... doesn't agree with critics

Central Intelligence Agency, the new State Department, the Washington Hospital Center, the maximum security building at St. Elizabeths, Howard University buildings, and the Federal Office Buildings from 5 through 10 (some still in the planning stage).

Hunter, whose voice still

carries the soft drawl of his native North Carolina, doesn't agree with critics who castigate the dull grey face of Government architecture.

"We have achieved good architecture for the most part," he emphasizes. "It is not great architecture, but it has been good architecture. If it is not good architecture, it is not the GSA's fault. It can be only as good as the architects bring us."

Trend to Contemporary

As policy, GSA uses local architects on projects outside of Washington, he explained. At present, 95 per cent of the Government design projects are done by outside architects. Now the definite trend is to contemporary style away from the monolithic classics.

Hunter came to Government in 1934 and worked as a draftsman when the Federal Triangle project was nearing its end. There was no GSA then and he worked for the Treasury Department's procurement division and later the Federal Works Agency.

In 1934, he became GSA Supervising Architect, the last in a long line that began with Robert Mills in 1838. His title was changed two years later.

When he moves his family to San Francisco, Hunter will leave behind the house that he designed at 8501 Seven Locks rd., Bethesda.

"That, at least, has my name all over," he said.

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